

## Reader's Guide

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will manage the Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The CCP provides long range guidance on Refuge expansion and management through its vision, goals, objectives, and strategies. The CCP also provides a basis for a long-term adaptive management process including implementation, monitoring progress, evaluating and adjusting, and revising plans accordingly. Additional step-down planning will be required prior to implementation of certain programs and projects.

This document combines both a Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/FEIS). Following a 30-day waiting period, we will publish a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies the alternative selected as the CCP. We will then publish a stand-alone CCP made up of Chapter 1, the selected alternative from Chapter 2, all of Chapters 3, 5, and 6 and selected appendices. The following chapter descriptions are provided to assist readers in locating and understanding the various components of this combined document.

*Chapter 1, Introduction, Purpose and Need, and Issues*, includes the regional context, establishment, and purposes of Driftless Area NWR; vision and goals for future management; and the purpose of and need for a comprehensive conservation plan. This chapter also provides background on major planning issues identified by Refuge staff, state and local agencies, and the general public.

*Chapter 2, Alternatives*, describes three management alternatives. Each alternative represents a potential comprehensive conservation plan for Driftless Area NWR. Alternative A describes current management on the Refuge. Alternative C, the preferred alternative, is the proposed CCP for Driftless Area NWR.

*Chapter 3, Affected Environment*, describes the existing physical and biological environment, public uses, cultural resources, and socioeconomic conditions. They represent baseline conditions for the comparisons made in Chapter 4.

*Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences*, describes the potential impacts of each of the three alternatives on the resources, programs, and conditions outlined in Chapter 3. This is perhaps the most important part of the EIS component of this document.

*Chapter 5, List of Preparers*

*Chapter 6, List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Receiving the EIS*

*Chapter 7, Comments on Draft EIS*

*Chapter 8, References Cited*

*Appendices*

